



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PLANT PROTECTION DIVISION - ENTOMOLOGY BRANCH

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January 22, 2004

Dear Bellevue businessman,

Last summer 21 European male gypsy moths were trapped in Bellevue by the Washington State Department of Agriculture. In addition, six egg masses and several pupal cases were detected in the area. State entomologists have determined that a reproducing population of European gypsy moths exists in Bellevue.

To eradicate the infestation, we are proposing to treat an 11-acre site in Bellevue next spring with the biological insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (*Btk*), utilizing ground-based equipment. Your business is located in or near to the proposed treatment zone. *Btk* is registered for use in the U.S. by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It has been used successfully in the past on numerous gypsy moth eradication projects, and has a proven safety record.

To learn more about the infestation and our proposed treatment, you are invited to an open house in the cafeteria at Sammamish High School, 100-140th Ave SE, Bellevue, on Wednesday, February 11th, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Drop in any anytime during this period to pick up literature, review display boards, view a videotape, and/or ask questions of state entomologists.

Boundaries of the proposed treatment zone are just west of 119th Avenue NE on the west, just east of 120th Avenue on the east, approximately 425 feet north of NE 8th Street on the north, and approximately 200 feet south of NE 8th Street on the south.

The gypsy moth is one of the most destructive pest insects ever brought into the U.S. In its caterpillar form, the gypsy moth feeds on the foliage of more than 500 species of trees and shrubs, causing enormous damage to the environment and economy in the U.S. each year.

Btk is a selective and effective bacterial insecticide found naturally in the soil. It is toxic only to moths and butterflies which are in the caterpillar stage at the time the insecticide is applied. *Btk* has a proven safety record with people, pets, livestock, birds, fish, and other insects such as bees, and is commonly used by many organic farmers today.

Enclosed for your information is a gypsy moth fact sheet, a map of the proposed treatment site, and a press release sent recently to local media on the proposal to eradicate the infestation. If you have any questions on the infestation or proposed treatment, please call our toll-free hotline (1-800-443-6684), or visit our Web site at www.agr.wa.gov, and click on gypsy moth.

I look forward to seeing you on February 11th.

Sincerely

James L. Marra
State Entomologist

Enclosures

